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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hugh Sharkey et al.

Art Unit : 3739

Serial No. : 09/664,473

Examiner : David M. Shay

Filed : September 18, 2000

Title : IN VIVO FORMED THERMALLY CONTRACTED COLLAGEN TISSUE

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 17, with the following rewritten

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paragraph:

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31 ~~--Handpiece 10 includes a trocar 12 with an elongated body and a longitudinal axis 14. A trocar distal end 16 is laterally deflectable about longitudinal axis 14. Trocar 12 also includes a proximal end 18. In one embodiment, trocar 12 has a 9F outer diameter.~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

32 ~~--As shown in Figure 5, orthopedic apparatus 36 includes handpiece 12a, an energy source 38 and a cable 40 coupled to handpiece 12a and energy source 38.~~

In the claims:

Cancel claims 50-56.

Add the following new claims.

33 ~~57. A method, comprising:~~

applying a controlled amount of RF thermal energy *in vivo* to vascularized, densely collagenous tissue of at least a portion of a ligament, tendon or joint capsular tissue which interconnects portions of a body to thermally modify the tissue to achieve a controlled modification of a geometry of the tissue.